



Rural District of Amesbury

ANNUAL REPORTS

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER
OF HEALTH

and

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH
INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 1967



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FOR THE YEAR ENDED 1967

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE (as at December, 1967)

Chairman: Councillor A. L. Mousley

Vice-Chairman: Councillor Mrs. M. J. Crook

Councillor H. W. Annetts, M.B.E.

Councillor G. W. Burden

Councillor Rev. F. G. Chamberlain

Councillor W. C. Channon

Councillor H. J. Collins

Councillor E. G. N. Grant, J.P.

Councillor E. J. Maffey

Councillor R. G. Miles, J.P.

(Chairman of the Council)

Councillor D. D. Mussell

Councillor A. L. Newman

Councillor G. A. Pitt, D.F.C.

Councillor E. A. W. Walter

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE AUTHORITY

Medical Officer of Health:

F. D. F. Steede, M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H.

Clerk (M.O.H. Office):

Miss G. M. Boswell

Council Offices, 1 The Green, Marlborough

Tel.: 2487 and 2118

Chief Public Health Inspector

I. L. Fisher, C.S.I.B., M.A.P.H.I.

Certified Meat and Food Inspector

Additional Public Health Inspector:

R. Wilkinson, C.S.J.B., M.A.P.H.I.

Technical Assistant:

A. M. Hallett

Rodent Operator:

R. H. Coombes

Clerk (R.D.C. Office):

Mrs. P. Wilson

Public Health Department, The Council Offices,

Redworth House, Amesbury, Salisbury, Wilts.

Telephone Nos.: Amesbury 3255-6

The Medical Officer of Health acts in a similar capacity for the Borough of Marlborough and the Rural Districts of Marlborough and Ramsbury, and Pewsey. These combined districts have a population of 69,120 and an area of 235,289 acres. They have appointed a Joint Committee, the East Wilts United Districts (Medical Officer of Health) Committee, to deal with all matters relating to the office of Medical Officer of Health. The Medical Officer also performs duties for the Wiltshire County Council under the National Health Service, Education and Mental Health Acts.

RURAL DISTRICT OF AMESBURY

East Wilts United Districts (M.O.H.) Office,
1 The Green,
Marlborough.

Telephone: Marlborough 2487 and 2118.

To The Chairman and Councillors of the Rural District:

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my annual report for the year 1967, which is compiled on similar lines as last year to comply with the requirements of the Ministry of Health. I am grateful to Mr. Fisher, the Chief Public Health Inspector, for his report which is again included. I am also indebted to Dr. Lycett, the County Medical Officer, for supplying me with details of vaccination procedures carried out.

The district though primarily concerned with agriculture is also of great importance, in that, it accommodates a number of military establishments in which a significant proportion of the population find their employment. The very pleasant town of Amesbury, situated on the River Avon, in spite of the near proximity of Salisbury, is an increasingly important shopping centre for the surrounding area. The district is important from the communication point of view, as in addition to other link roads it is traversed by the A303 London to Exeter trunk road. It has a considerable attraction for visitors and contains many examples of archaeological and architectural interest, including the prehistoric Stonehenge, while part of the Avon valley which lies between Amesbury and Salisbury is amongst the most beautiful stretches of river scenery to be found anywhere.

During the year the health of the district has given no cause for anxiety, and this is reflected in the vital statistics based on figures supplied by the Registrar-General. The population of the district has shown a further increase of almost one thousand, due mainly to new development. This is 549 more than the natural increase, excess of births over deaths.

The number of deaths is slightly lower, while there has been an increase both in the number of births and in the birth rate, which is well above the rate for England and Wales. Infant mortality unfortunately, although lower than last year, is still running at a figure which is slightly higher than the national average. Although the number of deaths was lower, there was a sharp increase in the number of deaths from lung cancer, which caused the deaths of thirteen out of the thirty-six who died from malignant disease. Of these thirteen deaths from lung cancer, all but two were men, and it is notable that six of these occurred in persons below the age of 65 years, the youngest of whom was only 47. Deaths from coronary heart disease showed a welcome reduction from last year's comparatively high figure, and deaths from bronchitis were unchanged. In all these three diseases the cigarette smoking habit has a very serious effect. In lung cancer which now accounts for nearly a third of all deaths from malignant disease in England and Wales,

at least eight out of ten deaths are due directly to cigarette smoking. In coronary thrombosis statistical evidence is accumulating as to its relationship which in a recent series in industrial workers has been shown to have had a rate in the heavy cigarette smoker of three times that of the non-smoker, and much higher than this in the smaller group, who retained the cigarette permanently in their lips. As for chronic bronchitis, many experienced physicians now consider the effects of the cigarette smoking habit on this very prevalent crippling disease an even more serious matter than its association with lung cancer. Although the numbers of non-smokers are increasing this has so far had little, if any, significant effect on the situation. What is needed is a complete change in the attitude of the general public to the cigarette smoking habit. Parents and other people in responsible positions in relation to the young such as teachers and doctors, can do a great deal by their example. I should also like to see much greater restrictions on smoking in public places, where this is practicable. It should not be forgotten that many non-smokers suffer considerable discomfort in attending indoor gatherings where smoking is permitted, while those with a pre-existing chest complaint may have their condition seriously exacerbated, and some may be prevented from attending at all. While cigarette smoking is stressed as the main environmental causative factor in lung cancer, it is now increasingly realised that asbestos dust can be responsible for a highly malignant tumour of the lung "linings." Although the numbers of cases from this cause are relatively small, and none have been implicated as a cause of death in this district, but because in certain instances exposure to asbestos dust seems to have been relatively trivial, I feel there should be greater awareness outside the factory of this hazard. Those at risk in the area are likely to be mainly in the building trade, not forgetting the "do-it-yourself expert."

The number of cases of infectious disease last year was small, with the exception of measles, for which a vaccination campaign has now been commenced, and which could eliminate this disease. Measles always places a strain on the family doctor service during epidemic periods, and although not usually serious, accounts for more deaths annually than any other infectious disease at the present time.

Immunisation returns for diphtheria, whooping cough, tetanus and poliomyelitis continue to be very satisfactory, with an acceptance rate of somewhere in the 90 per cent range. For this happy state of affairs great credit is due to the diligence of the County Health Department staff in following up and sending reminders to the parents of all children when inoculations are due.

This year there were only four cases of dysentery, but it seems that with a large military population, importations of this disease must be expected from time to time. I am, however, very pleased that as a result of co-operation with the Army Medical Services we do as a rule get to hear of new cases with the minimum of delay when there is often a good prospect of limiting any spread. In addition during the year, a number of cases of gastroenteritis were investigated where bacteriological reports were negative. Prevention of this type of illness is almost entirely a matter of attention to good habits with regard to personal hygiene. One knows that these habits are taught and encouraged in schools, but so often one finds inadequate

washing facilities in public places, and it is not surprising that these good habits tend to be lost early. Recent instances of causative organisms of intestinal disease having become resistant to antibiotics have made prevention even more important. There ought always to be adequate hand washing facilities in association with the toilet, and I feel that it is becoming not unreasonable to suggest that in new houses no kitchen should be constructed without a wash-hand basin as well as a sink.

Three cases of anthrax were notified in farm animals, the first for many years in the district. One was unfortunately not diagnosed until the carcase had been taken to a knacker's establishment.

No cases of food poisoning were notified I am glad to say, although four cases of salmonella infection were ascertained. This disease at present is not notifiable, but in practice we get to hear of all diagnosed cases through the Public Health Laboratory Service. This disease should, I believe, be made notifiable by the veterinary surgeon to the district medical officer of health, when it is identified in animals. Voluntary notification of such cases is sporadic, and in any case unless a statutory duty, could endanger the veterinary surgeon's relationship with his client, who may as a result have irksome restrictions placed on himself and his family.

Housing conditions on the whole are reasonably good, although the pressure on the waiting list of applicants for Council accommodation shows no sign of slackening off. There is in addition a comparatively large number of people who live in residential caravans, and some of these give rise to difficult problems, particularly where there are a number of children, and where as not infrequently is the case, the applicant has been evicted from Council property from another district often for rent arrears. The residential caravan for which there is no statutory method of assessing the degree of overcrowding, can seldom if ever, provide a satisfactory environment for bringing up a family. The long-term solution requires a higher rate of building, but in the present financial climate the prospect of this seems remote, and it may be that more attention should be given to the question of under-occupation of our current stock. It seems sensible, too, to concentrate the limited new building permitted, on smaller accommodation, mainly for the elderly, since this could also be used to make some under-occupied housing available for younger growing families. The excellent grouped accommodation bungalow schemes in Shrewton and Durrington meet a great need. I see all the applicants for this type of accommodation and often on seeing them again after taking up their tenancy, I have difficulty in recognising them, so great is the improvement in their physical condition over a short period. I am sure that this accommodation needs to be provided in increasing numbers, provided a suitable site can be found for them within easy reach of local community centres. I was therefore disappointed when the proposal to provide a grouped warden flatlet scheme for Amesbury parish, on what I felt to be a very good site, was not proceeded with.

I am very grateful for the continuous good work undertaken by Mr. Fisher and his staff in the interest of food hygiene. This is a subject which needs close and concentrated attention, due partly to the fact that personnel in the food trade tend to be recruited often on a seasonal or casual basis.

I would like to express my thanks to all those voluntary workers who have given up so much of their time to undertake the meals on wheels service, which now covers Durrington, Shrewton and Amesbury parishes. I have no doubt that there is also a need in other parishes of the district for this service, which is often instrumental in ensuring that an old person can continue to lead an independent life in his or her own home. While there is no doubt that the main reason for the service is to provide a "nutritional safety-net," a regular visit from a kindly voluntary worker often reveals other problems which need to be met.

The water supply throughout the district is satisfactory. So far no part-time suitably qualified medical adviser has, I understand, been appointed to the staff of the South Wilts Water Board.

Refuse collection is the responsibility of the Surveyor's Department. This is a weekly and still a kerbside bin collection.

I was very glad that at last work has commenced on the main drainage scheme to serve the parishes in the Bourne valley. In the meantime, unfortunately, due to the delay which has occurred a considerable number of septic tanks have had to be provided in connection with new development.

Another year has gone by without any indication that the local Health Authority are to introduce fluoridation of public water supplies in the district, in the near future, although all the Councils in the South Wilts Water Board area are in favour of this well-proven public health measure. It is confidently expected that its implementation will reduce the amount of dental decay in the younger generation by somewhere in the region of at least 50 per cent. It is safe, cheap, is endorsed by every reputable body of medical and dental opinion, and those of us who talk to young mothers in schools and clinics know that there is a large body of support for this measure from parents.

I should like to express my thanks to members of the Council, and particularly those members of the Public Health Committee for the very great deal of support which they have given me during the year. I am also grateful to the officers of the Council for their helpfulness and consideration, and particularly to Mr. Fisher and his staff for the very hard work which they have put in during a busy year. I should also like to thank Dr. Lishman, who acts as my deputy, for his ready help and advice. I am very grateful to Dr. Wormald and his staff at the Public Health Laboratory, Odstock, for their continued co-operation, often at very short notice. Finally I should like to thank my clerical assistant, Miss Boswell, not only for the conscientious way she has carried out her work during the year, but also for her valued assistance with this report.

I am Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

F. D. F. STEEDE,

Medical Officer of Health.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area in acres	63,455
Number of Parishes	17
Population, Registrar-General's mid-year estimate ...	28,650
Number of inhabited houses, flats and bungalows ...	5,083
Number of houses, flats and bungalows owned by the Council	1,580
Rateable value as at 1st April, 1967	£1,039,840
Product of a Penny Rate (estimated)	£4,059

VITAL STATISTICS

	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>Total</i>
LIVE BIRTHS—Legitimate	315	264	579
Illegitimate	21	19	40
Totals	336	283	619
Live birth rate per 1,000 population			21.6
Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births ...			6.4
Stillbirths—Legitimate	8	5	13
Illegitimate	—	—	—
Totals	8	5	13
Stillbirth rate per 1,000 total live and stillbirths ...			21.0
Total live and stillbirths	344	288	632
DEATHS	98	80	178
Death rate per 1,000 population			6.2
Infant deaths under one year—Legitimate	9	4	13
Illegitimate	1	—	1
Totals	10	4	14
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births			23.0
Legitimate infant deaths per 1,000 legitimate live births ...			22.4
Illegitimate infant deaths per 1,000 illegitimate live births ...			25.0
Neonatal deaths (under four weeks)—Legitimate	4	2	6
Illegitimate	1	—	1
Totals	5	2	7
Neonatal mortality rate per 1,000 total live births ...			11.3
Early neonatal deaths (under one week)—Legitimate	4	2	6
Illegitimate	1	—	1
Totals	5	2	7
Early neonatal mortality rate per 1,000 live births ...			11.3
Perinatal mortality rate (stillbirths and deaths under one week combined per 1,000 total live and stillbirths) ...			32.0
Maternal mortality (including abortion)			1

	<i>Year</i>				
	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967
Infant deaths ...	18	19	14	15	14
Infant mortality rate ...	25.7	29.27	22.65	25.3	23.0

CAUSES OF DEATH, 1967

<i>Causes of Death</i>					<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
1	Tuberculosis, respiratory	...	...	...	—	—	—
2	Tuberculosis, other	...	...	...	—	—	—
3	Syphilitic disease	...	...	...	—	—	—
4	Diphtheria	...	...	...	—	—	—
5	Whooping cough	...	...	...	—	—	—
6	Meningococcal infections	...	...	...	—	—	—
7	Acute poliomyelitis	...	...	...	—	—	—
8	Measles	...	...	...	—	—	—
9	Other infective and parasitic diseases	...	...	...	—	—	—
10	Malignant neoplasms, stomach	...	...	...	2	—	2
11	„ „ lung, bronchus	...	...	...	11	2	13
12	„ „ breast	...	...	...	—	—	—
13	„ „ uterus	...	...	...	—	3	3
14	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	...	...	...	11	6	17
15	Leukaemia, aleukaemia	...	...	...	—	1	1
16	Diabetes	...	...	...	—	1	1
17	Vascular lesions of nervous system	...	...	...	10	15	25
18	Coronary disease, angina	...	...	...	15	12	27
19	Hypertension with heart disease	...	...	...	1	—	1
20	Other heart disease	...	...	...	10	13	23
21	Other circulatory diseases	...	...	...	2	3	5
22	Influenza	...	...	...	—	—	—
23	Pneumonia	...	...	...	9	3	12
24	Bronchitis	...	...	...	5	3	8
25	Other diseases of respiratory system	...	...	...	2	1	3
26	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	...	...	...	1	—	1
27	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	...	...	...	—	1	1
28	Nephritis and nephrosis	...	...	...	1	—	1
29	Hyperplasia of prostate	...	...	...	—	—	—
30	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	...	...	...	—	1	1
31	Congenital malformations	...	...	...	1	2	3
32	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	...	...	...	8	7	15
33	Motor vehicle accidents	...	...	...	6	1	7
34	All other accidents	...	...	...	3	3	6
35	Suicide	...	...	...	—	2	2
36	Homicide and operations of war	...	...	...	—	—	—
All Causes					98	80	178

Comparison with England and Wales

	<i>per 1,000 population</i>		<i>per 1,000 Live Births</i>	<i>per 1,000 Total Births</i>
	<i>Live Births (Adjusted)</i>	<i>Death Rate (Adjusted)</i>	<i>Infant Mortality</i>	<i>Stillbirths</i>
Amesbury Rural District	20.0	10.3	23.0	21.0
England and Wales	17.2	11.2	18.3	14.8

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

General Practitioners:

Dr. R. C. P. Aldridge, M.B., B.S., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.	}	Fovant House, Amesbury. Tel.: Amesbury 3294.
Dr. D. G. Twyman, M.B.		
Dr. B. Batten, M.B.	}	62 Salisbury Street, Amesbury. Tel.: Amesbury 3249.
Dr. D. R. Clarke, M.B., B.S., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.		Garden Ground, Durrington. Tel.: Durrington Walls 221.
Dr. R. J. B. H. Jones, M.B., D.Obst., R.C.O.G.	}	Pinckney's Farm House, Durrington. Tel.: Durrington Walls 378.
Dr. D. Leaney, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.		
Dr. J. A. Pattillo, M.B.		Springbourne, Shrewton. Tel.: Shrewton 259.

Hospitals:

- Newbridge Hospital, Odstock Road. Tel.: Salisbury 3879.
Odstock Hospital. Tel.: Salisbury 5111.
Old Manor Hospital, Wilton Road. Tel.: Salisbury 3216.
Salisbury General Infirmary. Tel.: Salisbury 27181.

Public Health Laboratory:

- Odstock Hospital, Salisbury (Dr. P. Wormald). Tel.: Salisbury 6020.

County Council Health Department Services:

- (a) **Ambulance Facilities:** Ambulance Control Centre, Odstock Road, Salisbury. Tel.: Salisbury 22488/9.
- (b) **District Nurse/Midwives:**
- | | |
|--|-----------------------------|
| Miss E. Barnard,
21 Lynchetts Road, Amesbury. | Tel.: Amesbury 3110. |
| Mrs. G. D. Beaven,
83 Countess Road, Amesbury. | Tel.: Amesbury 2058. |
| Miss L. D. Browning,
35 Meads Road, Durrington. | Tel.: Durrington Walls 297. |
| Mrs. A. Marriott, Blue Gates,
Kitchener Road, Amesbury. | Tel.: Amesbury 2263. |
| Miss M. Phillips, Nurse's Bun-
galow, Birdlymes Estate, Porton. | Tel.: Idmiston 270. |
| Mrs. Q. M. Withers,
Lady Close, Shrewton. | Tel.: Shrewton 277. |

(c) *Health Visitors:*

Mrs. J. M. Heard,
Kingfishers, Idmiston.

Tel.: Idmiston 366.

Miss I. W. Sanders,
5 The Croft, Milston.

Tel.: Durrington Walls 500.

(d) **Clinic:** Maternity and Child Welfare.

Amesbury: Methodist Church Hall.

First and third Tuesdays of each month, 2.30–4 p.m.

Bulford (Camp): Infant Welfare Centre.

Every Tuesday, 2–4 p.m.

Bulford (Village), The W.I. Hall.

Second and fourth Thursdays of each month, 2–4 p.m.

Durrington: The Memorial Hall.

Second and fourth Thursday of each month, 2–4 p.m.

Larkhill, Whinyates Road.

Second and fourth Tuesdays of each month, 2–4 p.m.

Porton/Idmiston: Parish Memorial Hall.

First Wednesday of each month, 10–12 noon.

(e) **Chiropody Service:** This is mainly a domiciliary service.

(f) **Mental Welfare Officer:** Mental Health Centre, Salt Lane, Salisbury.
Tel.: Salisbury 27551.

County Council Welfare Department:

Mr. R. A. Whines, Meyrick Close, Combe Road, Salisbury. Tel.: Salisbury 27043.

County Council Children's Department:

The Area Children's Officer, Fire Station, Salt Lane, Salisbury. Tel.: Salisbury 27551.

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR 1967

Disease	Total cases all ages	Admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths	Analysis of total cases in age groups												
				Under 1 year	1-	2-	3-	4-	5-9	10-14	15-24	25-34	35-44	45-64	65+	Age unknown
Anthrax ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery ...	4	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—
Acute encephalitis ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Food poisoning ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	73	4	1	—	—	—	—	—
Measles ...	148	—	—	4	9	14	21	22	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Meningococcal infections ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ophthalmia neonatorum ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Paratyphoid fevers ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia ...	—	—	12	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute poliomyelitis ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal pyrexia ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet fever ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Smallpox ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tuberculosis, respiratory ...	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	2	—	—	—
Tuberculosis, other ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Typhoid fever ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping cough ...	12	—	—	1	1	2	2	3	1	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
Totals ...	169	—	12	6	10	16	24	25	74	7	1	4	2	—	—	—

IMMUNISATION STATISTICS, 1967

Diphtheria, Whooping Cough and Tetanus Immunisation

<i>Year of Birth</i>		1967	1966	1965	1964	1963	1962 -58	1952 -57	Others under 16
Primary immunisations completed during 1967	Diph.	234	301	22	5	5	33	—	—
	Wh/c.	234	299	19	1	4	9	—	—
	Tet.	234	301	21	5	5	38	13	3
Reinforcing injections administered during 1967	Diph.	—	100	240	51	26	321	9	—
	Wh/c.	—	41	149	29	13	51	2	—
	Tet.	—	100	239	51	26	343	23	5

Smallpox Vaccination

	<i>Months</i>				<i>Years</i>		
Age Group	0-3	3-6	6-9	9-12	1	2-4	5-15
Vaccinations	1	3	3	11	236	80	13
Re-vaccinations	—	—	—	—	—	8	22

Poliomyelitis Immunisation

<i>Age Group</i>	3rd Quad.	2nd inj.	3rd inj. or 4th Quad.	4th inj.	3 oral doses	2 orals after 2 inj.	4th oral after 3 inj. or 3 oral
1967	—	—	—	—	195	—	—
1966	—	—	—	—	328	—	75
1965	—	—	—	—	56	—	84
1964	—	—	—	—	18	—	14
1963	—	—	—	—	14	—	19
1958-62	—	—	—	—	63	—	495
1952-57	—	—	—	—	8	—	16
Otrs. udr. 16	—	—	—	—	1	—	5
Otrs. ovr. 16	—	—	—	—	13	—	1
Totals	—	—	—	—	696	—	709

AMESBURY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Report of the Chief Public Health Inspector for the Year 1967

Redworth House,
Amesbury,
Salisbury,
Wilts.

To the Chairman and Members of the Council:

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my nineteenth annual report on the work carried out by the Public Health Inspector's Department during the year 1967, which has been compiled in accordance with the requirements of the Ministry of Health Circular 1/68. Reference is also made in the report to the public health services operated in the district by the Council, and which are under the control of the Council's Engineer and Surveyor.

I should like to express my thanks to the members of the Council, and particularly those members of the Public Health and Housing Committees, for the support given to me during the year, and also gratitude to my colleagues in other departments for their help so willingly given at all times.

I am very grateful to Dr. Steede for his helpfulness and consideration in all matters relating to the work of the department, and to once again record my appreciation of the staff of the Public Health Department whose efforts have made possible the work carried out during the year.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

I. L. FISHER,

Chief Public Health Inspector.

July, 1968.

SANITARY INSPECTION IN THE AREA

Number and Nature of Visits or Inspections during 1967

GENERAL SANITATION

Number of Inspections re Water Supply	...	...	...	22
Number of Inspections re Drainage of Property	...	...	...	928
Number of Inspections re Keeping of Animals	...	...	...	19
Number of Inspections of Caravan Sites	...	...	...	107
Number of Inspections of Licensed Premises	...	...	...	1
Number of Inspections under Factories Act	...	...	...	28
Number of Inspections of Bakehouses	...	...	...	17
Number of Inspections under Noise Abatement Act	...	...	...	13
Number of Inspections re Refuse Collection and Disposal	...	...	...	7
Number of Inspections under Pet Animals Act	...	...	...	4
Number of Inspections under Animal Boarding Establishments Act	...	...	...	4
Number of Inspections under Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act	...	...	...	103
Number of Inspections under Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949	...	...	...	104
Number of Visits re Sampling of River Water	...	...	...	4
Number of Inspections of Schools	...	...	...	3
Number of Inspections under Diseases of Animals (Waste Foods) Order, 1957	...	...	...	18
Number of Inspections under Diseases of Animals Act	...	...	...	10
Number of Inspections under Clean Air Act	...	...	...	44
Number of Miscellaneous Sanitary Visits	...	...	...	163
Number of Visits re Bourne Valley Sewerage Scheme	...	...	...	48
Number of Visits re Tilshead Sewerage Scheme	...	...	...	106
Number of Visits re Sampling of Water Supplies	...	...	...	135
Number of Visits re Sampling of Sewage Effluent	...	...	...	16

HOUSING

Number of Houses inspected under Public Health Act	...	...	58	
Number of Visits paid to above Houses (Re-inspections)	...	...	53	
			—	111
Number of Houses inspected under Housing Acts	...	...	82	
Number of Visits paid to above Houses (Re-inspection)	...	...	536	
			—	618
Number of Miscellaneous Housing Visits	...	...	...	267
Number of Houses inspected re Verminous Conditions	...	...	1	
Number of Visits paid to above Houses (Re-inspection)	...	...	3	
			—	4
Number of Property Owners/Agents and Builders Interviewed	...	...	...	152

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Number of Inquiries in cases of Infectious Disease	...	...	...	37
Number of Miscellaneous Infectious Disease Visits	...	...	...	70

MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTIONS

Number of Visits to Poultry Packing Station	...	...	...	72
Number of Visits to Knackers Yard	...	...	...	12
Number of Visits to Butchers' Shops	...	...	...	21
Number of Visits to Fishmongers and Poulterers	...	...	...	1
Number of Visits to Grocers	...	...	...	56
Number of Visits to Dairies and Milk Shops	...	...	...	34
Number of Visits to Ice-cream Premises	...	...	...	19
Number of Visits to Greengrocers and Fruiterers	...	...	...	2
Number of Visits to Food Preparing Premises	...	...	...	38
Number of Visits to Fried Fish Shops	...	...	...	4
Number of Miscellaneous Food Visits	...	...	...	35

3,305

FACTORIES ACT, 1961

Inspections made of factories for the purpose of provisions as to health revealed that the requirements of Section 7 of the Act were being complied with.

The following list shows the numbers and types of factories in the district:

Bakers and Confectioners	...	...	6
Engineering, including Garages	...	...	23
Electricity Generating	...	...	1
Joinery, woodworking	...	...	13
Testing of Flow Meters	...	...	1
Milk Pasteurising	...	...	1
Laundering	...	...	2
Corn Milling	...	...	1
Manufacture of Explosives	...	...	2
Vehicle Painting	...	...	2
Tailoring	...	...	1
Aircraft Testing	...	...	1
Instrument Repairs	...	...	1
Fibre Glass and Resin Moulding	...	...	2
Cine Film Camera Testing	...	...	1
Cinematograph Film Manufacture	...	...	1
Oil Gas	...	...	1
Radio and Electric Equipment Repairs	...	...	2
Upholstery and Furniture Repairs	...	...	1
Packing of Plastic Products	...	...	1
Poultry Processing	...	...	1
Knackers Yards	...	...	1
			<hr/>
			66
			<hr/>

OUTWORKERS

Very little outwork is carried on in the district. Inspections were made of any premises in respect of which notification was received, but in no case was it found necessary to take action.

HOUSING

During the year the development of the main part of the Council's estate at Bulford was completed, and work was commenced on the erection of six bungalows at the entrance to Churchill Avenue and in Crescent Road, Bulford. Following negotiations with the Ministry of Defence the Council agreed to act as agents for the erection of 88 houses which the Ministry proposed to erect as an emergency housing programme on land adjoining this new estate and the work was well in hand at the end of the year.

The eighteen bungalows forming the grouped dwelling scheme at Shrewton were completed in the early part of the year and the scheme was officially opened on the 19th May, 1967. Also included on this site are a further six bungalows which obtain their central heating and hot water supplies from the same source as the grouped bungalows but are allocated to tenants under the Council's allocation system. This site has a very pleasing and attractive layout and is one with which the Council can feel justifiably proud.

The total number of dwellings completed by the Council during the year was 66, and a further 6 were under construction at the end of the year.

Following consideration of reports showing the estimated housing needs in the district over the next five-year period the Council resolved to continue their efforts to acquire an area of the land to the east of Holders Road, Amesbury, with a view to erecting 150 dwellings thereon in that time, but due to difficulties experienced little progress had been made by the end of the year. The Council is, however, hoping to acquire additional land adjoining the new estate at Bulford on which to erect further houses, and also at Station Road, Bulford, for bungalow type development. It was also decided to look for land in the parishes of Idmiston, Shrewton and Winterbourne on which to erect dwellings to meet the demand in those areas, but no suitable sites have, so far, been found.

The Council gave further consideration to the provision of a grouped dwelling scheme on land at Avonstoke House, Amesbury, but decided not to proceed with this scheme due to the high cost of acquiring and developing the site, and that, at the time, there was insufficient evidence to justify the need for this type of accommodation.

Progress was, however, made with the purchase of the land formerly being part of Peacock's Nurseries at Durrington and following the investigation of existing sites at Durrington, which showed that there were seven sites on which infilling to the extent of some 18-20 dwellings could take place, it was agreed to make provision for this development. The Council also resolved to proceed with the purchase of the land at Woodford on which it is proposed to erect four bungalows.

During the year the Council disposed of Amesbury House, Amesbury, to the Wiltshire County Council and the seven tenants were provided with alternative housing accommodation.

Work on the modernisation of 54 houses in Lynchetts Road, and Highfield Road, Amesbury, was commenced during the year, in accordance with the Council's programme for improving their older houses.

The number of units of housing accommodation provided in the district by private enterprise building has continued at a steady rate and by the end

of the year 81 dwellings were completed and a further 110 were under construction.

The fall in the number of properties improved under the Discretionary Grant Scheme continued in 1967, and only two dwellings (from applications approved in the previous year) were completed, the grants paid in respect of these amounting to £649. I can only reiterate the opinion expressed in my last annual report that interest in this form of grant will not increase until the present level of grant is raised.

The improvement of properties by the provision of the specified standard amenities has continued at much the same rate as in previous years. During the year eleven dwellings were provided with the standard amenities, including five which qualified for the upper limit of grant, and grants totalling £2,125 4s. 8d. were paid in respect of these works.

The following table shows the action taken during the year by the department under the Housing and Public Health Acts:

(i)	Inspection of housing defects under Public Health Acts	...	58
(ii)	Inspection of housing defects under Housing Acts	...	82
(iii)	Number of dwellings so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for habitation	...	16
(iv)	Number of dwellings found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for habitation	...	82
(v)	Number of dwellings rendered fit in consequence of informal action	...	54
ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS			
A. Proceedings under section 9, 10 and 12, Housing Act, 1957.			
(i)	Number of dwellings where Notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	...	Nil
(ii)	Number of dwellings made fit after service of formal Notices:		
(a)	By owners	...	1
(b)	By local authority in default of owners	...	Nil
B. Proceedings under Public Health Act.			
(i)	Number of dwellings where Notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	...	Nil
(ii)	Number of dwellings made fit after service of formal Notices:		
(a)	By owners	...	1
(b)	By local authority in default of owners	...	Nil
C. Proceedings under section 16, Housing Act, 1957.			
(i)	Number of Demolition Orders made	...	11
(ii)	Number of houses demolished as result of Demolition Orders	...	*14
(iii)	Number of Undertakings accepted	...	1
(iv)	Number of Undertakings completed	...	Nil
D. Proceedings under section 42, 43, 46 and 48, Housing Act, 1957.			
(i)	Number of houses in Clearance Area upon which Demolition Orders were made	...	Nil
(ii)	Number of houses demolished as a result of Demolition Orders	...	Nil
(iii)	Number of houses in Clearance Area which have been retained as temporary accommodation	...	Nil
E. Proceedings under section 17, 18 and 27, Housing Act, 1957, and section 26, Housing Act, 1961.			
(i)	Number of dwellings where Closing Orders were made	...	2
(ii)	Number of dwellings closed as a result of Closing Orders or Undertakings by owners	...	2
(iii)	Number of dwellings where Closing Orders were cancelled in consequence of premises being made fit	...	Nil
F. Proceedings under section 76, Housing Act, 1957.			
(i)	Number of cases of overcrowding discovered during year	...	Nil
(ii)	Number of cases of overcrowding abated during year	...	Nil

*Includes 7 houses demolished by Government Departments by agreement with the Council.

RODENT CONTROL

The Council's Rodent Service has operated satisfactorily during the year, the work being carried out in accordance with the control measures recommended by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

Much of the success of this work depends upon the co-operation received from the public in notifying the Council of vermin infestations, thus enabling action to be taken at the earliest possible time. Whilst treatment work is given priority, the carrying out of routine survey work also forms an important part of the Council's duties under the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949.

The following table sets out the work carried out by the Rodent Operator/Inspector during the year:

<i>Properties other than Sewers</i>	<i>Type of Property</i>	
	<i>Non-Agricultural</i>	<i>Agricultural</i>
1. Number of properties in district	5,083	129
2. (a) Total number of properties (including nearby premises) inspected following notification	117	7
(b) Number infested by (i) Rats	101	1
(ii) Mice	10	6
3. (a) Total number of properties inspected for rats and/or mice for reasons other than notification	657	30
(b) Number infested by (i) Rats	80	15
(ii) Mice	2	—

The sewers in the district area were test-baited and no evidence of infestation was indicated.

WATER SUPPLY

Whilst all the Council's water undertakings were transferred to the South Wilts Water Board on the 1st April, 1967, the Council's responsibilities under the Public Health Acts with regard to water supplies in the district remain the same. The policy of taking regular samples of water from the Board's supplies has been continued and during the year 43 samples taken of water abstracted from the boreholes at Newton Tony and Shrewton were submitted for bacteriological examination. Copies of the Pathologist's reports on these samples are forwarded to the Engineer to the Water Board, with whom contact is made should an unsatisfactory report be received.

One sample of each of these sources of supply was submitted for chemical examination and copies of the reports are given below:

Newton Tony

Physical Characters	...	...	...	Crystal clear, colourless: no deposit	
Chemical	...	...	...	...	Parts per million
Reaction	...	...	...	...	Alkaline pH 7.4
Saline and free Ammonia	...	...	...	...	Nil
Organic (or "albuminoid") ammonia	...	...	...	...	0.01
Oxygen absorbed from permanganate in three hours at 37 °C.	...	...	...	...	0.2
Chlorides	...	...	...	...	20
Nitrates (nitric nitrogen)	...	...	...	...	4.35
Total Hardness	...	...	...	...	227
(a) Temporary	...	...	...	...	136
(b) Permanent	...	...	...	...	91
Metals	...	...	...	...	Nil
Nitrites (nitrous nitrogen)	...	...	...	...	Nil
Fluoride	...	...	...	...	0.08
Opinion: Satisfactory					

Shrewton

Physical Characters	...	...	...	Crystal clear, colourless: no deposit	
Chemical	...	...	...	...	Parts per million
Reaction	...	...	...	...	Alkaline pH 7.6
Saline and free Ammonia	...	...	...	...	Nil
Organic (or "albuminoid") ammonia	...	...	...	...	0.01
Oxygen absorbed from permanganate in three hours at 37 °C.	...	...	...	...	0.2
Chlorides	...	...	...	...	18.5
Nitrates (nitric nitrogen)	...	...	...	...	3.4
Total Hardness	...	...	...	...	232
(a) Temporary	...	...	...	...	160
(b) Permanent	...	...	...	...	71.5
Metals	...	...	...	...	Nil
Nitrites (nitrous nitrogen)	...	...	...	...	Nil
Fluoride	...	...	...	...	0.03
Opinion: Satisfactory					

Other Supplies

The undermentioned parishes obtain a supply of water from undertakings not owned by the Council:

Cholderton (Cholderton Water Board).

Tilshead and Figcheldean (supplies taken in bulk from the Ministry of Defence (Army)).

Samples of water taken regularly from each of the above supplies have been found to be of satisfactory bacteriological quality.

The following table gives details of the estimated number of dwelling houses and caravans and the estimated population in each parish supplied from public water mains. This table does not take into account Service personnel and their families and premises occupied by them, nor does it include properties obtaining piped water from private estates supplies.

There are no public standpipes in the district.

<i>Parish</i>	<i>Estimated Total Population</i>	<i>Estimated number of Dwelling Houses and Caravans connected direct to Public Piped Water Supplies</i>	<i>Estimated popu- lation supplied from Public Water Mains direct to Houses and Caravans</i>
Allington	478	132	443
Amesbury	4,730	1,205	4,690
Bulford	2,245	616	2,245
Cholderton	207	67	207*
Durnford	420	83	343
Durrington	3,455	902	3,435
Figcheldean	872	243	832
Idmiston	2,200	557	2,110
Milston	250	82	250*
Newton Tony	375	88	325
Orcheston	304	97	284
Shrewton	1,530	425	1,450
Tilshead	317	95	317*
Wilsford-cum-Lake	150	8	20
Winterbourne	2,005	507	1,705
Winterbourne Stoke	210	53	200
Woodford	455	121	305
Total	20,203	5,281	19,161

*Includes population supplied from mains owned by Cholderton Water Company or by Government Departments.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

Work commenced on Stage 1 of the sewerage scheme to serve the parishes in the Bourne Valley and at the end of the year satisfactory progress was being made at the disposal works site and with the laying of the pipes. Following consideration of a report by the Consulting Engineers the Council resolved to instal a sludge treatment plant at the Disposal Works to replace the original layout for sludge drying.

The Council also gave consideration to the adequacy of the existing arrangements for the drying and handling of sludge at the Ratfyn Sewage Disposal Works at Amesbury, and resolved to make application to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government for approval to the installation of a sludge treatment plant similar to the one to be installed in connection with the Bourne Valley Sewerage Scheme but capable of dealing with a larger population.

During the year the scheme prepared by the Consulting Engineers for sewerage the parish of Tilshead was accepted by the Council and forwarded to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government for approvals.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Milk Supply

The circumstances of the milk supply afforded to the district have remained unchanged during the year.

Samples of milk have been taken regularly from all the registered distributors in the district, including producer/retailers. A total of 199 samples were submitted for the statutory tests and biological examination.

The following table shows the number of samples submitted for each examination, together with the results:

<i>Untreated Milk</i>			<i>Biological Examination</i>			<i>Heat Treated Milk</i>		
<i>No. of Samples Taken</i>	<i>Pass</i>	<i>Fail</i>	<i>No. of Samples Taken</i>	<i>Pass</i>	<i>Fail</i>	<i>No. of Samples Taken</i>	<i>Pass</i>	<i>Fail</i>
60	57	3	21	21	—	Bottles 74	74	—
						Cartons 44	42	2

When unsatisfactory reports were received in respect of samples of raw milk, the producers were interviewed and advised on methods to ensure cleanliness in production, and repeat samples proved satisfactory.

During the year 47 samples of bottle washings were submitted for tests, of which 41 were found to be satisfactory. Following the receipt of unsatisfactory reports, further visits were made to ascertain the cause.

There is only one Registered Dairy in the district. The number of Registered Milk Distributors and Dealers licensed to sell milk under special designations is as follows:

Registered Milk Distributors in District ...	...	...	17
Dealers licensed to sell Pasteurised Milk (pre-packed) ...	...	...	16
Dealers licensed to sell Untreated Milk ...	...	...	5
Dealers licensed to sell Ultra Heat Treated Milk ...	...	...	1

Slaughter Houses, etc.

There are no slaughter houses in the district, all fresh meat being obtained from the abattoir in the city of Salisbury.

Regular visits have been made to the small poultry processing factory in the district to inspect and make judgement upon carcasses showing any signs of abnormality. During the year the throughput of this factory amounted to 463,401 birds, of which 1.4 per cent, weighing 6 tons 0 cwt. 12 lb. were rejected as unfit for human consumption.

Periodic inspections have also been made of the one licensed knackers yard in the district and it has not been necessary to take any action in respect of this establishment.

Food Premises

Regular inspections have been made of premises in the district where food is handled, stored or prepared and have shown that the general standard maintained at these premises is at a satisfactory level. Any minor contra-ventions noted of the provisions of the Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1960, were rectified on verbal notice. Inspections were also made of food vehicles coming within the scope of the Food Hygiene (Markets, Stalls and Delivery Vehicles) Regulations, 1966, and where necessary, advice was given as to action necessary to bring these vehicles into compliance with the provisions of the Regulations.

The following table shows the number and types of food premises in the district and indicates the number of premises fitted to comply with Regulation 16 (personal washing facilities), it also shows the number of premises to which Regulation 19 (facilities for washing food and equipment) applies and the number so fitted to comply with this Regulation.

<i>No. and Type of Premises</i>	<i>No. of Premises fitted to comply with Regulation 16</i>	<i>No. of Premises to which Regulation 19 applies</i>	<i>No. of Premises fitted to comply with Regulation 19</i>
Hotels ... 39	39	39	39
Grocers ... 48	48	48	48
Bakers ... 5	5	5	5
Butchers ... 12	12	12	12
Cafes and Restaurants ... 9	9	9	9
Confectioners ... 15	15	15	15
Greengrocers ... 5	5	5	5
Fish Fryers ... 3	3	3	3
Fishmongers ... 4	4	4	4
Total ... 140	140	140	140

Food and Drugs Act, 1955

During the year it was necessary to bring to the Council's notice one case in which a complaint had been received regarding the presence of a foreign body in an article of food manufactured in the district, when it was resolved to send a warning letter to the person concerned.

No ice-cream is manufactured in the district and routine inspection of the premises registered for the storage and/or sale of ice-cream have shown that the requirements of the Regulations are being complied with.

The number and types of food premises registered under section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, are as follows:

Storage and/or Sale of Ice-Cream	...	...	...	86
Sausage Making	...	...	...	5

Meat and Other Food Condemned during 1967

The quantity of meat and other foods condemned during 1967 as being unfit for human consumption is given below:

Garden Peas	72 pkts.	Haddock Fillets	8 pkts.
Sliced Green Beans	33 „	Crispy Cod Fillets	21 „
Fried Chip Potatoes	47 „	Cod Steaks	12 „
Mixed Vegetables	12 „	Cod Portions	6 „
Rissoles	23 „	Plaice Fillets	22 „
Steaklets	21 „	Plaice Fillets and B'crumbs	12 „
Faggots	6 „	Fish Fingers	36 „
Cheeseburgers	3 „	Chicken	2 No.
Florida Orange Juice	3 „	Pet Pax	34 pkts.
Beefburgers	29 „	Smoked Haddock	10 „
Fish Cakes	25 „	Lamb Chops	2 „
Rainbow Trout	5 „	Potato Croquettes	1 „
Smoked Salmon	6 „	Broad Beans	9 „
Potted Shrimps	34 „	Brussels Sprouts	37 „
Scampi	13 „	Corn on the Cob	13 „
Lemon Soles	1 „	Broccoli Spears	9 „
Kipper Fillets	1 „	Spinach	4 „
Cornish Pasties	11 „	Asparagus	1 „
Chicken Joints	5 „	Raspberries and Strawberries	20 „
Chicken Pie	12 „	Puff Pastry	18 „
Bacon Fingers	1 „	Cream Confectionery	10 „
Sausage Rolls	4 „	Ice-Cream Confectionery	9 „
Eclairs	2 „		

Diseases of Animals (Waste Foods) Order, 1957

Regular inspections have been made during the year of the nine premises licensed by the Council for the boiling of waste foods and in no case was any action found to be necessary.

Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963—Registration

During the year ten new registrations were made. Of these four were changes of ownership and the other six were premises to which the Act did not previously apply. Four premises were deleted from the register.

Inspection. Apart from the newly-registered premises a considerable number of premises were reinspected for the first time. Most of these were still in compliance with the Act, apart from the loss of a few abstracts and broken thermometers. At these secondary inspections more attention was able to be paid to decoration and general cleanliness of premises.

A number of sub-standard premises in one of the local Army Camps are to be demolished and replaced by a modern block of shops. Whereas the existing premises have fallen short in all but the minimum requirements of the Act the new shops will facilitate the maintenance of a far higher standard in all respects.

Co-operation with owners and occupiers of registered premises remains good.

FACTORIES ACT, 1961

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH IN RESPECT OF THE YEAR 1967 FOR THE RURAL DISTRICT OF AMESBURY IN THE COUNTY OF WILTSHIRE

Prescribed Particulars on the Administration of the Factories Act, 1961

PART I OF THE ACT

1—*Inspections* for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors).

<i>Premises</i> (1)	<i>Number on Register</i> (2)	<i>Number of</i>		
		<i>Inspections</i> (3)	<i>Written Notices</i> (4)	<i>Occupiers prosecuted</i> (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	—	—	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	65	28	—	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	1	12	—	—
Total ...	66	40	—	—

2—Cases in which *Defects* were found:

Particulars (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (6)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspector (4)	By H.M. Inspector (5)	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2)	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient ...	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective ...	—	—	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes ...	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not includ- ing offences relating to Outwork) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Total ...	—	—	—	—	—

PART VIII OF THE ACT

(Sections 133 and 134)

NIL RETURN

